

Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of a Council meeting

held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 11 January 2024 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: R Aldcroft (Mayor), Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, B. Chapman, M. Erwin, P. Glover, G. Groves, R. Hughes, W. Love, T. Manton, and I. Nellins.

ABSENT: Councillor A. Sanderson.

In Attendance: 0 members of the public were present, and 3 members of the public listened to the meeting via Teams.

Clerks: Sue Thomas, Town Clerk and Kate Harvey, Assistant Clerk.

The Mayor announced the meeting was being recorded and live streamed.

1.C APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2.C DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- i. No Disclosable interests were declared.
- ii. There were no applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011 received.

3.C PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public had expressed a wish to speak at the meeting.

4.C MINUTES

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Chapman seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To adopt the minutes of an:

Extraordinary Council meeting held on 12 October 2023

Full Council meeting held on 19 October 2023

Extraordinary Council meeting held on 16 November 2023

5.C TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members **NOTED** the events attended:

Date	Event	Attended by:
9 /10/2023	Opening of McDonalds Biodiversity Garden	Mayor
25/10/2023	Creativity, Culture & Leisure Fair	Mayor
31/10/2023	Market Drayton School Calendars Preview	Mayor & Deputy Mayor
12/11/2023	Remembrance Sunday	Mayor
23/11/2023	Photograph with Festival of Lights Sponsors	Mayor
25/11/2023	Festival of Lights	Mayor
28/11/2023	Citizens Advice AGM Meeting	Mayor
29/11/2023	St John Ambulance Christmas Fair	Mayor
10/12/2023	Shropshire St John Ambulance Carol Service	Deputy Mayor
12/12/2023	Judging of Christmas Shop Window Competition	Mayor
13/12/2023	St John Ambulance Presentation Awards	Mayor
20/12/2023	Presenting Christmas Shop Window Competition prizes and certificates	Mayor

76.C COMMITTEE MINUTES**Planning Committee**

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor T. Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

19 October 2023

2 November 2023

16 November 2023

14 December 2023

Community and Governance Committee

Councillor Nellins proposed, Councillor Manton seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree the minutes of the Community and Governance Committee meeting held on 16 November 2023.

Services and Facilities Committee

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Chapman seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree the minutes of the Services and Facilities Committee meeting held on 30 November 2023.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Groves seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on:

2 November 2023

14 December 2023

Personnel Committee

Councillor Erwin proposed, Councillor J. Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 14 December 2023.

7.C BUDGET

Papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Mayor asked if members would like to ask any questions.

Members agreed that as each committee has already approved their budget no questions needed to be asked.

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Groves seconded, and it was **RESOLVED**:

To agree the following budget for 2024-25:

Committee	Budget 2024-25
Services and Facilities	372,315
Finance and General Purposes	226,715
Community and Governance	27,500
Total	626,530

8.C PRECEPT 2024-25

Papers were circulated prior to the meeting; see Appendix CO128 and CO129.

The precept from Shropshire Council for 2024-25 will be £554,184, leaving a budget shortfall of £5,996.

Members discussed the importance of keeping the precept in line with inflation and contemplated a 1% increase leaving a shortfall of £455.

A discussion was had about the Town Council finances, the credit crunch and the difficulties the inflation rates have caused. Conversations were had about general reserves and how a 0% precept increase should be implemented this year to help residents.

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Chapman seconded,

A 1% increase on the precept for 2024-25.

with 5 votes for and 6 votes against this motion fell.

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Groves seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 6 votes for and 5 votes against:

For a 0% increase on the precept of £554,184 for 2024-25; the shortfall of £5996 to come from General Reserves.

9.C PUBLIC TOILET GENERAL MAINTENANCE

A document showing members a breakdown of expenditure was circulated prior to the meeting.

The budget of £1,000 and the additional £2,000 allocated from Earmarked Reserves has nearly been spent; members considered additional funding for the remainder of the financial year.

After a brief discussion:

Councillor Manton Proposed, Councillor Hughes seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree up to £1,500 can be spent from Earmarked Reserves on the public toilet maintenance for the remainder of the financial year.

10.C COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE BOUNDARY REVIEW

Papers were circulated prior to the meeting as seen in Appendix CO131.

Shropshire Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of Parishes of Market Drayton and Adderley. The Boundary Commission has recently carried out a review of electoral divisions for Shropshire which has resulted in the Town Council parish boundaries and Shropshire Council divisional boundaries being different. The review is to identify if there should be any changes to the parish boundary between Market Drayton and Adderley

After a discussion:

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Nellins seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To submit the following comments to Shropshire Council:

Market Drayton Town boundary should be moved to be coterminous with the Divisional Boundary.

The new proposed Western Way ward be abolished and absorbed within the Market Drayton East Ward; as it is forecast there will only be 118 electors in the ward there will be no need for additional town councillors allocated to this area.

The main business site falls within the Western Way Ward as this provides employment for the town; this should be within the town ward.

11.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET REVIEW CONSULTATION

Papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

Shropshire Council are seeking views on their budget plan which outlines how they plan to close the £50m budget gap; members considered how they would like to respond to the consultation.

Members agreed the link regarding the consultation on Shropshire Councils website is highly informative and residents should be encouraged to watch the short video which explains about the budget.

After a discussion:

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Hughes seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To NOTE Shropshire Council Budget Review Consultation.

That Councillors respond individually to the consultation with own views.

To put the Consultation link on the website and Social Media pages to encourage residents to read the consultation information and respond.

12.C APPOINT OF A REPRESENTATIVE ON AN OUTSIDE BODY

The Mayor reported that Market Sports Association has requested a representative be elected to MDSA Working Group which has been set up to look at the future of sports provision within the town.

Members were in support of the group but had concerns that the group has not been formally set up as no terms of reference have been agreed. The Clerk has attended a meeting to help the working group set up; she could continue in this role on the condition that she does not provide administrative support due to the amount of work this could involve.

After a brief discussion:

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Manton seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

That the Town Clerk represent the Town Council at the Market Drayton Sports Association Working Group meetings until the group has been formally set up.

When the group has been formally set up the Agenda item to appoint a Town Council representative be considered again.

13.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor Nellins reported:

- Draft papers have been submitted to cabinet this week regarding car parking charges within the county, they will increase from 60p to 80p per hour and will be in effect from 1 April 2024.
- Working with Arriva regarding the Park and Ride frequency to run every ten minutes instead of every twenty minutes and to hold an introductory period of £1 instead of £2 to park all day to encourage more users.
- Cabinet is meeting next Wednesday to discuss the money stratagem papers.
- A meeting is being held with Arriva to discuss them possibility of running the 64-bus service from Market Drayton to Shrewsbury hourly again.

Councillor Aldcroft reported:

- He has forwarded a report from the director of Health to the Clerk; it is informative and requested members request a copy from the Clerk to read.
- He has become a governor of the West Midlands Ambulance Trust; he welcomed any information about the service members/residents may have.
- Open reach has started to install fast fibre at Woore and Pipe Gate.

14.C SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS


Papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

There were no questions raised.

Councillor. T. Beckett proposed, Councillor J. Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree the payments from 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm.

Chairman: 

Date: 13/4/2024